

1723. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Seaway Regulations and Rules: Great Lakes Pilotage Rates (Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation) (RIN: 2135-AA08) received February 6, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1724. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's first report on the drinking water infrastructure needs survey, pursuant to Public Law 104-182; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1725. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Household Goods Tariffs [STB Ex Parte No. 555] received February 7, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1726. A letter from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dependency and Income [38 CFR Part 3] (RIN: 2900-AI47) received February 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1727. A letter from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Spouse and Surviving Spouse [38 CFR Part 3] (RIN: 2900-AI36) received February 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1728. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Deposits of Excise Taxes [Notice 97-151] received February 7, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1729. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the CBO's sequestration preview report for fiscal year 1998, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-587); jointly, to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

1730. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that the Department of Health and Human Services is allotting emergency funds made available under section 2606(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to all States, tribes, and territories, pursuant to section 2604(g) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; jointly, to the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

1731. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a report on deliveries under section 540 of Public Law 104-107 to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to Public Law 104-107, section 540(c) (110 Stat. 736); jointly, to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

#### ¶8.4 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mrs. Sara Emery, one of his secretaries.

#### ¶8.5 COMMITTEE RESIGNATION—MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House the following communication, which was read as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 4, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives.*  
DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my appointment to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.  
Sincerely,

DUNCAN HUNTER,  
*Member of Congress.*

By unanimous consent, the resignation was accepted.

#### ¶8.6 JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House the following communication, which was read as follows:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives, the Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am forwarding to you the Committee's recommendations for certain designations required by law for the 105th Congress.

First, pursuant to Section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee designated the following members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 105th Congress: Mr. Archer, Mr. Crane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Stark.

Second, pursuant to Section 161 of the Trade Act of 1974, the Committee recommended the following members to serve as official advisors for international conference meetings and negotiating sessions on trade agreements: Mr. Archer, Mr. Crane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Matsui.

With best personal regards, I am  
Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,  
*Chairman.*

*Ordered,* That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointments to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

#### ¶8.7 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TRADE AGREEMENTS ADVISERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, by unanimous consent, announced the Speaker's selection, pursuant to the provisions of section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211) and upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the following Members of the committee to be accredited by the President as official advisers to the United States delegations to international conferences, meetings, and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements during the first session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress: Messrs. ARCHER, CRANE, THOMAS, RANGEL and MATSUI.

#### ¶8.8 PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, by unanimous consent, announced that pursuant to the provisions of clause 1 of rule XLVIII and clause 6(f) of rule X, the Speaker appointed to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence the following Members: Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, LEWIS of California, SHUSTER, MCCOLLUM, CASTLE, BOEHLERT, BASS, GIBBONS, DICKS, DIXON, SKAGGS, Ms. PELOSI, and HARMAN.

#### ¶8.9 COMMITTEE ELECTION—MINORITY

Mr. UNDERWOOD, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, submitted the following privileged resolution (H. Res. 44):

*Resolved,* that the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Mr. HOWARD L. BERMAN of California.

When said resolution was considered and agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

#### ¶8.10 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT CLERK

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 10, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 4 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Ms. Julie Perrier to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which she would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 105th Congress or until modified by me.  
With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.*

#### ¶8.11 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Four years ago, we began a journey to change the course of the American economy. We wanted this country to go into the 21st century as a Nation in which every American who was willing to work for it could have a chance—not a guarantee, but a real chance—at the American dream. We have worked hard to achieve that goal, and today our economy is stronger than it has been in decades.

#### *The Economic Record*

The challenge we faced in January 1993 was to put the economy on a new course of fiscal responsibility while continuing to invest in our future. In the last 4 years, the unemployment rate has come down by nearly a third: from 7.5 percent to 5.4 percent. The economy has created 11.2 million new jobs, and over two-thirds of recent employment growth has been in industry/occupation groups paying above-median wages. Over the past 4 years inflation has averaged 2.8 percent, lower than in any Administration since John F. Kennedy was President. The combination of unemployment and infla-

tion is the lowest it has been in three decades. And business investment has grown more than 11 percent per year—its fastest pace since the early 1960s.

As the economy has grown, the fruits of that growth are being shared more equitably among all Americans. Between 1993 and 1995 the poverty rate fell from 15.1 percent to 13.8 percent—the largest 2-year drop in over 20 years. Poverty rates among the elderly and among African-Americans are at the lowest level since these data were first collected in 1959. And real median family income has risen by \$1,600—the largest growth rate since the Administration of President Johnson.

#### *The Economic Agenda*

Our comprehensive economic agenda has helped put America's economy back on the right track. This agenda includes:

**Historic Deficit Reduction.** Since the 1992 fiscal year, the Federal budget deficit has been cut by 63 percent—from \$290 billion to \$107 billion in fiscal 1996. As a percentage of the Nation's gross domestic product, the deficit has fallen over the same period from 4.7 percent to 1.4 percent, and it is now the lowest it has been in more than 20 years. In 1992 the budget deficit for all levels of government was larger in relation to our economy than those of Japan and Germany were to theirs. Now the deficit is smaller by that same measure than in any other major industrialized economy. And this Administration has proposed a plan that balances the budget by 2002, while protecting critical investments in America's future.

**Investments in Education and Technology.** Deficit reduction remains a priority, but it is not an end in itself. Balancing the budget by cutting investments in education, or by failing to give adequate support to science and technology, could actually slow economic growth. To succeed in the new global economy, our children must receive a world-class education. Every child in America should be able to read by the age of 8, log onto the Internet by the age of 12, and receive at least 14 years of quality education: 2 years of college should become as universal as high school is today. And we must make sure that every child who wants to go to college has the resources to do so.

**Expanding Markets.** We have aggressively sought to expand exports and open markets abroad. In the past 4 years we have achieved two major trade agreements: The North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay round accord of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which established the World Trade Organization. Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas have committed to establishing free trade among themselves by 2020 and 2005, respectively. And we have opened new markets abroad by signing more than 200 other important trade agreements. As a result, U.S. exports have

boomed, which means higher wages for American workers in export industries—often 13 to 16 percent higher than the rest of the workforce.

**Reforming Government.** The strength of the American economy lies in the energy, creativity, and determination of our citizens. Over the past 4 years we have worked hard to create an environment in which business can flourish. And as the private sector has expanded, the Federal Government has improved its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. We have energetically reformed regulations in key sectors of the economy, including telecommunications, electricity, and banking, as well as environmental regulation. And we have reduced the size of the Federal Government as a percentage of the workforce to the smallest it has been since the 1930's.

CONTINUING TO CREATE AN ECONOMY FOR THE  
21ST CENTURY

America's workers are back at work and our factories are humming. Once again, America leads the world in automobile manufacturing. Our high-technology industries are the most competitive in the world. Poverty is down and real wages are at last beginning to rise. And we have laid the foundations for future long-term economic growth by reducing the deficit and investing in education.

During the past 4 years, we have worked to prepare all Americans for the challenges and opportunities of the new global economy of the 21st century. We have worked to restore fiscal discipline in our government, to expand opportunities for education and training for our children and workers, to reform welfare and encourage work, and to expand the frontiers of free trade. But there is more work to be done. We must continue to provide our citizens with the tools to make the most of their own lives so that the American dream is within the reach of every American.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 10, 1997.*

By unanimous consent, the message was referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 105-2).

¶18.12 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—  
NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT  
TO IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of August 14, 1996, concerning the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive order 12722 of August 2, 1990. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

Executive Order 12722 ordered the immediate blocking of all property and

interests in property of the Government of Iraq (including the Central Bank of Iraq) then or thereafter located in the United States or within the possession or control of a United States person. That order also prohibited the importation into the United States of goods and services of Iraqi origin, as well as the exportation of goods, services, and technology from the United States to Iraq. The order prohibited travel-related transactions to or from Iraq and the performance of any contract in support of any industrial, commercial, or governmental project in Iraq. United States persons were also prohibited from granting or extending credit or loans to the Government of Iraq.

The foregoing prohibitions (as well as the blocking of Government of Iraq property) were continued and augmented on August 9, 1990, by Executive order 12724, which was issued in order to align the sanctions imposed by the United States with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 661 of August 6, 1990.

Executive Order 12817 was issued on October 21, 1992, to implement in the United States measures adopted in UNSCR 778 of October 2, 1992. UNSCR 778 requires U.N. Member States to transfer to a U.N. escrow account any funds (up to \$200 million apiece) representing Iraqi oil sale proceeds paid by purchasers after the imposition of U.N. sanctions on Iraq, to finance Iraq's obligations for U.N. activities with respect to Iraq, such as expenses to verify Iraqi weapons destruction, and to provide humanitarian assistance in Iraq on a nonpartisan basis. A portion of the escrowed funds also finances the activities of the U.N. Compensation Commission in Geneva, which handles claims from victims of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Member States also may make voluntary contributions to the account. The funds placed in the escrow account are to be returned, with interest, to the Member States that transferred them to the United Nations, as funds are received from future sales of Iraqi oil authorized by the U.N. Security Council. No Member state is required to fund more than half of the total transfers or contributions to the escrow account.

This report discusses only matters concerning the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 and matters relating to Executive Orders 12724 and 12817 (the "Executive Orders"). The report covers events from August 2, 1996 through February 1, 1997.

1. In April 1995, the U.N. Security Council adopted UNSCR 986 authorizing Iraq to export up to \$1 billion in petroleum and petroleum products per quarter for 6 months under U.N. supervision in order to finance the purchase of food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies. This arrangement may be renewed by the Secretary Council for additional 6-month periods. UNSCR 986 includes arrangements to ensure equitable distribution of humanitarian